



Riverside General Plan Program

Recreation and Libraries Topic Group Meeting Thursday, June 5, 2003

On Thursday, June 5, 2003, City of Riverside Planning staff and the General Plan consultant team led by Cotton/Bridges/Associates and MIG held a Topic Group meeting to discuss recreation resources and libraries. The meeting provided an opportunity for representatives from public and private recreation organizations and library service providers to identify their “wish list” for the General Plan. Attendees included:

Aisha Jemmott, City of Riverside, Parks and Recreation Department
Lani Creely, Orangecrest Wolves Football
Wendy Eads, Friends of the Islander Pool & Islander Nature Park
Mary Humboldt

Participants were asked to identify how to best pursue the City’s vision in the context of the following vision themes:

- A. How we work
- B. How we play
- C. How we live
- D. How we get around
- E. How we learn

The comments of the attendees are provided on the following pages.

How we play

Neither schools nor parks have field lighting, which limits the hours of use.

Most school and park facilities lack open rest rooms.

Riverside has a real need for well-designed fields.

The City seems to have the idea that recreation is a private enterprise that should be privately funded. This is the wrong attitude.

The Parks and Recreation Department does a great job with its limited resources. However, parks and other recreation facilities are not equally distributed throughout the City's neighborhoods. The City needs an equity policy that is enforced.

In times past, the City used school grounds for summer recreation programs. Why no longer?

The Parks and Recreation Department has to turn away requests for field use due to the high demand and lack of field space.

The City just hasn't committed adequate resources to purchase sites for parks.

Make sure that when fees for parks are collected from a specific neighborhood, those fees are used in that neighborhood.

How do residents get the City Council's attention regarding the need to invest in parks?

Get neighborhoods to "adopt" parks and take ownership and pride in "protecting" the park.

The school districts seem very reluctant to share use of school facilities.

Expand the capabilities of existing parks and recreation facilities.

How we live

The neighborhoods with the highest (and disproportionate) amount of multi-family housing have the greatest need for park space.

The General Plan needs to have social liability: plan for places where people can help themselves.

Riverside has only two senior citizen centers. This is wholly inadequate.

How we learn

The school districts and libraries could coordinate facilities better to save money.

The East Side "cybrary" is very successful. This model should be extended to other neighborhoods.

The City needs programs to address immigrants' language and learning needs.